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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the instant application.

1-188. (canceled)

189. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% identical to Ser (69) - Ser (208) of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide ~~binds to an antibody that specifically binds a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2~~ stimulates proliferation of epithelial cells.

190. (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 189, having a Met residue at the N-terminus of said amino acid sequence.

191. (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 189, wherein said polypeptide is part of a fusion protein.

192. (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 189, which is produced in a recombinant cell.

193. (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 192, wherein said recombinant cell is bacterial.

194. (previously added) The isolated polypeptide of claim 189, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

195. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 97% identical to Ser (69) - Ser (208) of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide ~~binds to an antibody that specifically binds a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2~~ stimulates proliferation of epithelial cells.